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7 JUN 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR: Acting Chief, DPD

SUBJECT: Operational Aspects of Electronic Data Processing (EDP)

1. As the OXCANT program progresses into the test flight phase, the necessity for electronic computer assistance in flight planning is becoming more evident. The flight plan of an operational mission involving three refuelings is a lengthy one at best, and it becomes quite a time-consuming operation when additional plans are required to study the effects of loss than programmed offloads at any of the three refuelings. Operational flight planning must be based on best available winds and temperatures for initial feasibility studies, but must be reworked just prior to take-off utilizing latest forecast weather, again a very time-consuming operation if accomplished manually. Of course, tanker flight plans must also follow generally the same procedure, thus compounding the problem.

2. When a detailed flight plan has been completed as outlined above and a feasible approved mission is contemplated, it becomes necessary to apply latest known weather to the route. This weather review is particularly critical in the target area and in the three refueling areas as well as in the departure and arrival areas. Bad weather in any one of the three refueling areas will delay the mission just as quickly as poor target area weather. Since this phase of flight planning is also a time-consuming one which lends itself to EDP, it must be considered.

3. The following actions are contemplated in the near future to research the extent of the problem of incorporating electronic computers into the flight planning of the OXCANT project:

a. Week of 4 June: A meeting has been convened by the Development Branch to allow DPD personnel to become acquainted with

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the Agency's EDP capability. [ ] will attend and it is hoped that she will indicate sources of machine time and programmers. (Since she is not CXCART cleared, the meeting will restrict itself in this regard).

b. Friday, 8 June: A visit to the USAF Command Post will be made [ ] The purpose is general orientation of EDP application to current operations. Col. John Moreland has been told only that these visitors are of the 1040 Special Field Activities Squadron. [ ] will conduct the one hour briefing.

c. Week of 11 June: A visit to WECCK, Offutt AFB, will be made [ ] for orientation purposes. At this time [ ] will informally contact [ ] (OIC programmers, Directorate Operations) to determine:

(1) If the SAC program could be modified to accept A-12 performance.

(2) If the SAC program would be adaptable or usable on the Agency's computer (type and available time to be determined at 6 June meeting).

(3) If SAC programmers could be made available to modify their program for Agency use.

NOTE: Needless to say, security and the need to eliminate CXCART details will be kept uppermost in mind during this discussion.

d. In the near future, when some machine and programming capability is known, a meeting of Headquarters [ ] flight planners will convene to determine:

(1) Exact outputs which are desired from the EDP program.

(2) Exact format which is desired.

Until the above is accomplished no actual programming can be commenced, nor can it be determined if SAC's program can be

adapted for Agency use.


It is felt that this meeting should consider the above in two separate phases:

Phase I: Operational flight planning requirements

Phase II: Weather planning requirements.

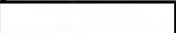
4. To emphasize the importance of this program and to keep all concerned informed as to the progress it is recommended that a time phasing chart be added to the Commander's Notebook (Operations Plan 1-61). The parameters of this chart should be developed jointly by Development Branch and Operations and the chart revised as required by Development Branch.

SIGNED

  
Lt. Colonel USAF  
Chief, Special Projects Branch, DPD

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cc: DPD/WX  
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